

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated September 29, 2006. Applicants have amended the drawings, specification, and claims to clarify key features of the invention and overcome the respective objections and rejections. Applicants have also provided new claims, which more clearly recite the features of the invention. No new matter has been added, and all claim features are fully supported by the originally filed specification (see Figs. 4 and 5 and pages 7 – 11). The amendments to the claims and addition of new claims place the application in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims and entry of the new claims. The discussion/arguments provided below reference the claims in their amended form.

IN THE FIGURES/DRAWINGS

In the present Office Action, the drawings are objected to. Accordingly, Applicants have reviewed the drawings and provided corrections thereto. Replacement sheets incorporating these amendments are attached to the present amendment. Where necessary, Applicants have also amended the specification to provide full support for all referenced features of the drawings. Notably, Applicants have defined a box within Figure 4 that illustrates the “activator” 51, which is a component encompassing both the activate circuit and the random digital number generator, as recited by the originally filed claims. No new matter has been added to the drawings or to the supporting specification, as all illustrated features were fully disclosed by the originally filed specification and claims. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the figures.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At paragraph 6 of the present Office Action, the disclosure is objected to because of informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have reviewed the specification and provided corrections thereto. Where appropriate, the specification has been amended to support the drawing amendments and vice versa. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the specification.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the present Office Action, Claims 2-8 and 10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Further, Claims 2-8 and

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10-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 4, 12, 14, and 16, have been canceled. Of the remaining claims subject to the 112 rejections, Applicant has amended the relevant claims to overcome the rejections. The amendment overcomes the §112 rejections, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections in light of the amendment.

CLAIMS REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, Claims 2-6 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Keeth* (U.S. Patent No. 6,430,696). Applicants' independent claims have been amended to more clearly recite the features of Applicants' inventions.

Keeth does not anticipate Applicants' claimed invention because *Keeth* does not teach features related to (a) an activator that enables, on a random time basis, the self test system to enter into a test mode of operation, and trigger the time adjust system to introduce time delays in the data window or (b) wherein ... a delayed, test data, ... is provided to an output component ...when the self test system is in the test mode. These features are recited by Applicants' independent claims.

The standard for a §102 rejection requires that the reference teach each element recited in the claims set forth within the invention. *Keeth* fails to meet this standard and therefore does not anticipate Applicants' invention. The above claims are therefore allowable.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

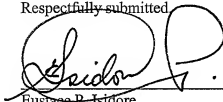
In the present Office Action, Claims 7-8 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Keeth* as applied to claims 2, 5, 10 and 14 in view of *Gomm et al.* (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0223278). These claims depend from the independent claims, which Applicants have shown to be allowable over the primary reference. The present claims are therefore also allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by amending the specification and drawings to overcome respective objections/rejections thereto. Applicants have further amended the claims to overcome §112 rejections, and to clarify features within specific claims. Additionally, Applicants have provided a new set of claims, which more completely recite the novel features of Applicants' claimed invention. The claim amendments and new claims overcome the various claim rejections, and Applicants, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicants further respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Isidore", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large loop at the end.

Eustace P. Isidore

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